2001-2002 Annual Report

Saskatchewan
Wetland
Conservation
Corporation

www.wetland.sk.ca

land Birds

Biological Monitoring

Ecotourism

Habitat

Rangeland Management

Stewardsh

Watersheds

Water Quality

Biodiversity

Demonstrat

Community Involvement

Corporate Mission

To lead and coordinate the province's conservation initiatives to ensure the sustainability and biodiversity of the prairie environment for people and wildlife.

Corporate Profile

The Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation (SWCC) delivers integrated native prairie, riparian and wetland conservation programs in Saskatchewan. SWCC is a Treasury Board Crown reporting to a Board of Directors under the direction of the Minister responsible for SWCC.

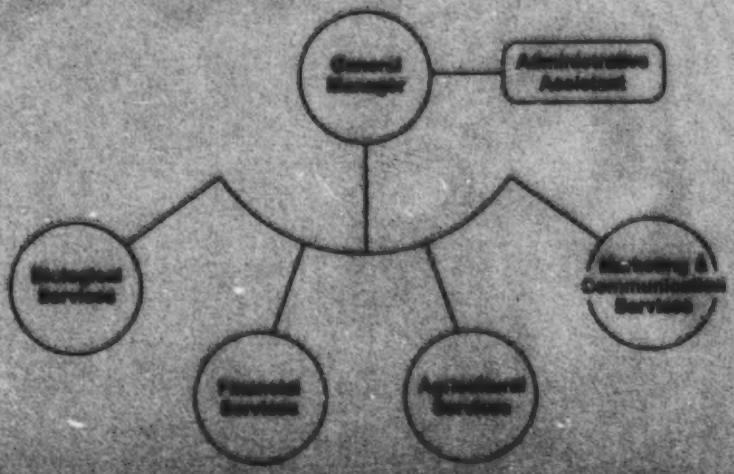
The Corporation is responsible for coordinating North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) activities in the province. The NAWMP is a tripartite agreement among Canada, the United States and Mexico to restore waterfowl populations to the level of the 1970s.

SWCC is guided by a board of directors that includes representation from a broad partnership of provincial and national wildlife habitat conservation and land-use agencies. Through this partnership, the Corporation links agriculture, industry and wildlife interests to land use programming in Saskatchewan.

The Corporation works primarily with landowners in Saskatchewan's agricultural zone, coordinating activities relating to wetland, riparian and native prairie habitat.

Photo courtesy Ducks Unlimited Canada

Organizational Structure Chart



102-07508/

Letter of Transmittal

Regina, Saskatchewan

The Honourable Linda Haverstock
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report of the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation for the period ending March 31, 2002, including a financial statement for the year duly certified by the Corporation's auditor, in a form approved by Treasury Board, all in accordance with The Crown Corporations Act, 1993.

Respectfully submitted,

Buckley Belanger
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation

Table of Contents

Organizational Structure Chart
Letter of Transmittal 1
Chairman's Address 2
General Manager's Address 2
Board of Directors 3
Committees of the Board 3
Corporate Goals and Accomplishments 4
Stewardship Programs
Wetland Prairie Shores 6
Riparian Streambank Stewardship 9
Prairie Water Care 12
Grassland Native Prairie Stewardship 14
North American Waterfowl Management Plan 17
Working With Communities 19
In Appreciation 21
Future Directions 22
Finance and Human Resources 23
Management's Responsibility for Financial Statements 24
Auditors' Report 25
Financial Statements 26

Chairman's Address

Bob Ruggles

Since the Corporation was established over ten years ago, SWCC has forged partnerships with landowners, organizations and agencies in both Canada and the United States to develop integrated land stewardship programs that conserve wetland, riparian and native habitat in the agricultural zone of Saskatchewan.

The positive response to our stewardship programs has been gratifying, and we will build on this enthusiasm in the months ahead. The economic and social benefits of habitat conservation cannot be understated. Managing our finite natural resources to create healthy watersheds, will increase biodiversity of the landscape, contribute to a safe drinking water supply, and help sustain the fragile Saskatchewan prairie. It is a shared responsibility, and we appreciate the efforts of many individuals and agencies that have worked with us over the past year.

In the fall of 2002, the Corporation will become part of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, consolidating the provincial government's watershed management functions under one umbrella. The Authority will focus its energies on watershed stewardship, land-use planning and protection of source water from contamination. SWCC's current and future programs will be a key component of the Authority's mandate.

Bob Carles

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Board of Directors for their guidance and commitment to conservation in Saskatchewan, and look forward to working with our partners and land stewards in the years ahead.

Bob Ruggles
Chairman of the Board

General Manager's Address

Since the Corporation's inception over a decade ago, staff have worked diligently to establish multi-use land stewardship programs that balance the economic needs of people who own the land with conservation of wildlife habitat.

By working with an ever expanding network of individual landowners, public agencies, conservation and agricultural organizations on stewardship programs, we have been able to achieve many of our goals.

Results from our monitoring and evaluation programs have provided the data required to make effective management decisions. Our public awareness and extension programs promote best management practices, and encourage landowners to become engaged in conservation activities.

Native prairie is a threatened resource. In areas of the province suited for crop production, only small areas of native prairie remain. To conserve this unique heritage, the Corporation established a Native Prairie Stewardship Program. Staff currently work with over 770 stewards representing over 320,000 acres in high priority areas.

Agriculture and human settlement have also had a large impact on waterways. To mitigate impacts, staff work with landowners in the Streambank Stewardship Program. Over 150 demonstration sites have been established in key strategic locations to restore habitat, create healthy watersheds and contribute to safe drinking water supplies.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the stewards involved in our stewardship programs; to the agencies and associations who have worked with us over the past year; to our partners in both Canada and the United States who have provided financial support; and to staff at the Corporation for all of their efforts.

Bob Carles
General Manager

Board of Directors
(as at March 31, 2002)

Bob Ruggles, Chairperson, Member representing Saskatchewan Environment
Dr. Jim Jowsey, Member representing Nature Saskatchewan
Dennis Van Der Haegen, representing Saskatchewan Wheat Pool
Don Taylor, representing Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
Gloria Parisien, representing Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization
Pat Kehoe, representing Ducks Unlimited Canada
Solomon Carriere, Member - at- Large
Art Martell, Member - at - Large
Wayne Dybvig, representing SaskWater
Dale Hjertaas, representing Saskatchewan Environment
David Ingstrup, representing Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service)
Lorne Scott, representing Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation

SWCC Staff
(as at March 31, 2002)

SWCC employs 38 individuals working in Biological, Agricultural, Marketing and Communications, and Financial Services. The positions represent permanent, part-time and seasonal status.

Several members of the Board of Directors participated in a field trip near Yorkton.
Front row (L to R) Dennis Van Der Haegen, Bill Bristol (observer), Art Martell.
Back row (L to R) Solomon Carriere, Dale Hjertaas, David Ingstrup, Don Taylor, Bob Carles.

Committee Members

Finance and Audit Committee
Bob Ruggles, Chairperson
Wayne Dybvig
Pat Kehoe
David Ingstrup

Biological Committee
David Ingstrup, Chairperson
Pat Kehoe
Dale Hjertaas
Bill Bristol (Observer)

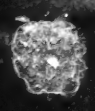
Lands Committee
Gloria Parisien, Chairperson
Lorne Scott
Wayne Dybvig
Don Taylor
Bill Bristol (Observer)

Marketing and Communications Committee
Lorne Scott, Chairperson
Gloria Parisien
Don Taylor
Rick Bates (Observer)

Corporate Goals

The Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation continues to expand its network of conservation-minded groups by creating linkages between agencies and landowners. Many of the Corporation's initiatives directly reflect both federal and provincial strategies to address specific issues including among others: "Sustainable Development Strategy 2000" (Health Canada), "Water Quality Strategy" (SaskWater/SERM) and "Framework for a Saskatchewan Biodiversity Action Plan" (SERM), "Agriculture 2000"(Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada), and "Building Tomorrow Together" (Tourism Saskatchewan).

Building partnerships with landowners in rural Saskatchewan is one of the Corporation's greatest strengths, enabling it to accomplish habitat conservation objectives, program funding requirements and public education initiatives.



Goals: 2001-2002

- To build a solid working relationship between the agriculture and conservation communities by educating the public about the value and benefit of habitat conservation.
- To expand soil, water and land stewardship programs that benefit people and wildlife by working with private and public land managers.
- To improve the biological foundation on which habitat programs are based.
- To manage and secure crown land.

These goals are directed by three guiding principles:

- Respect for the land and the people who own the land;
- Partnerships that encourage sustainable development;
- Sustainable land use practices.

Overview and Success Stories

The success of projects and programs delivered by the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation (SWCC) can be attributed directly to the desire, dedication and enthusiasm of hundreds of local landowners.

Their commitment and hard work today combined with the expertise and delivery capabilities of the Corporation will result in a better environment for all of us tomorrow.

The Corporation continues to fulfill its unique role as a program delivery agent and partner with a broad-based network of local, regional, national and international organizations committed to improving and conserving the environment.

Our 2001-2002 Success Stories

To build a solid working relationship between the agriculture and conservation communities by educating the public about the value and benefit of habitat conservation.

- Conducted range symposia or field tours in Radville, Ogema, Gravelbourg, Val Marie, Eastend, and Shaunavon attended by 237 producers.
- Organized a tri-town meeting of mayors and councillors from Wynyard, Wadena and Foam Lake to discuss eco-tourism potential, sharing of resources and future partnerships.
- Produced "*The Land Manager's Guide to Grassland Birds of Saskatchewan*". The 56-page guide features detailed illustrations of 33 birds (including several endangered species) and 10 plant species.
- Updated and expanded website incorporating new elements such as four virtual tours of native prairie sites and an interactive map profiling stewards.
- Prepared fifteen landowner profiles and published them in weekly newspapers.
- Produced a 13 week radio series profiling landowners which was broadcast on stations in south west Saskatchewan.
- Received the Countryside Canada award for stewardship programs sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Wildlife Habitat Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

To expand soil, water and land stewardship programs that benefit people and wildlife by working with private and public land managers.

- Signed up 222 stewards managing 94,000 acres of native prairie for a total of over 770 stewards representing over 320,000 acres enrolled in the program.
- Established 39 prairie management demonstration projects in cooperation with landowners who hold over 12,000 acres of native prairie.
- The total number of demonstration

Corporate Goals

The Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation continues to expand its network of conservation-minded groups by creating linkages between agencies and landowners. Many of the Corporation's initiatives directly reflect both federal and provincial strategies to address specific issues including among others: "Sustainable Development Strategy 2000" (Health Canada), "Water Quality Strategy" (SaskWater/SERM) and "Framework for a Saskatchewan Biodiversity Action Plan" (SERM), "Agriculture 2000"(Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada), and "Building Tomorrow Together" (Tourism Saskatchewan).

Building partnerships with landowners in rural Saskatchewan is one of the Corporation's greatest strengths, enabling it to accomplish habitat conservation objectives, program funding requirements and public education initiatives.

Goals: 2001-2002

- To build a solid working relationship between the agriculture and conservation communities by educating the public about the value and benefit of habitat conservation.
- To expand soil, water and land stewardship programs that benefit people and wildlife by working with private and public land managers.
- To improve the biological foundation on which habitat programs are based.
- To manage and secure crown land.

These goals are directed by three guiding principles:

- Respect for the land and the people who own the land;
- Partnerships that encourage sustainable development;
- Sustainable land use practices.

Overview and Success Stories

The success of projects and programs delivered by the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation (SWCC) can be attributed directly to the desire, dedication and enthusiasm of hundreds of local landowners.

Their commitment and hard work today combined with the expertise and delivery capabilities of the Corporation will result in a better environment for all of us tomorrow.

The Corporation continues to fulfill its unique role as a program delivery agent and partner with a broad-based network of local, regional, national and international organizations committed to improving and conserving the environment.

Our 2001-2002 Success Stories

To build a solid working relationship between the agriculture and conservation communities by educating the public about the value and benefit of habitat conservation.

- Conducted range symposia or field tours in Radville, Ogema, Gravelbourg, Val Marie, Eastend, and Shaunavon attended by 237 producers.
- Organized a tri-town meeting of mayors and councillors from Wynyard, Wadena and Foam Lake to discuss eco-tourism potential, sharing of resources and future partnerships.
- Produced "*The Land Manager's Guide to Grassland Birds of Saskatchewan*". The 56-page guide features detailed illustrations of 33 birds (including several endangered species) and 10 plant species.
- Updated and expanded website incorporating new elements such as four virtual tours of native prairie sites and an interactive map profiling stewards.
- Prepared fifteen landowner profiles and published them in weekly newspapers.
- Produced a 13 week radio series profiling landowners which was broadcast on stations in south west Saskatchewan.
- Received the Countryside Canada award for stewardship programs sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Wildlife Habitat Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

To expand soil, water and land stewardship programs that benefit people and wildlife by working with private and public land managers.

- Signed up 222 stewards managing 94,000 acres of native prairie for a total of over 770 stewards representing over 320,000 acres enrolled in the program.
- Established 39 prairie management demonstration projects in cooperation with landowners who hold over 12,000 acres of native prairie.
- The total number of demonstration

projects established with the support of landowners is now in excess of 150 involving more than 140 kilometers of creeks or rivers. These projects demonstrate good riparian management.

- Started an additional 920 seedlings of 23 species at the SaskPower Shand Greenhouse. These seedlings will be used to fill in bare spots in the beds in the Regina Plain Native Seed Nursery. The Seed Nursery contains a total of 89 species. Seed harvesting continued in 2001.
- In the Missouri Coteau, negotiated 14 habitat enhancement projects, including 3 projects targeting Burrowing Owl habitat, 10 targeting Piping Plover habitat, and 1 targeting native prairie habitat.
- In the Frenchman River Basin, 4 habitat enhancement projects targeting Burrowing Owl habitat have been negotiated. All four projects were within three miles of an active Burrowing nest or one that had a nesting pair in 2001.
- Initiated watershed stewardship projects in the Upper Assiniboine River, Frenchman River and Qu'Appelle River basins in 2001.
- Continued work in the five originally-targeted watersheds: Long Creek; Bone Creek/Swift Current Creek; Wood River/Missouri Coteau; Crescent Creek/Whitesand River; Arm River/Last Mountain Lake.
- In total,1,721 acres of cropland were converted to perennial cover, an additional 120 acres of cropland were seeded using a seed mix that included native grass and forb seed, 62.5 miles of fencing were built, and 6 remote watering systems were constructed.

To improve the biological foundation on which habitat programs are based.

- Used Geographic Information System (GIS) software and land cover data to identify Grassland Bird Conservation Areas (GBCAs) under the Partners In Flight Bird Conservation Area framework.GBCA models and bird distribution models were combined to identify priority areas to deliver conservation programs.
- Continued to evaluate the effectiveness of cropland conversion programs for waterfowl and grassland birds in the Missouri Coteau. Researchers have located 968 nests of 32 species to date.
- Digitized polygons for 351 wetland basins in Saskatchewan that were known to have Piping Plovers or were surveyed during the International Piping Plover Censuses. Land use, land ownership, and all Piping Plover population information has been incorporated into a GIS database.
- Location information for known occurrences of priority species (Burrowing Owl, Greater Sage-Grouse, Ferruginous Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, and Swift Fox) in the Frenchman River basin were plotted in a GIS and incorporated into a map product along with land cover and landownership.
- Conducted 183 lentic and 114 range assessments on 30 high priority Piping Plover basins. This information was used to establish conservation site plans for each of the basins.
- Compared native pasture, tame pasture and hay land as habitat for grassland birds.
- Conducted 760 evening point counts along 51 transects in southwestern Saskatchewan for Common Poorwills. Only 10 individuals in total were detected in five different regions, suggesting the species is even less common than previously thought.
- Continued to monitor Piping Plovers at Chaplin Lake to determine effects of management activities on plover abundance and reproduction success.

To manage and secure crown lands.

- Began negotiations on management of 2,000 acres with lessees in the Chaplin Lake area and finalized acquisition of another 200 acres of deeded and Crown land in the same area.

Prairie Shores

Prairie Shores, the Corporation's wetland program, operates under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The focus of the program is on breeding waterfowl, but direct benefits accrue to threatened and endangered species, shorebirds, grassland birds and colonial water birds. Prairie Shores encourages sustainable land use for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

Goals

- To secure critical wetland and upland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, grassland birds and water birds.
- To establish native prairie and riparian stewardship initiatives that encourage landowners to adopt management practices which conserve wildlife habitat for future generations.

Objectives	Results
To secure lands that are classified as critical for wildlife	Acquired and improved the habitat quality of 32,000 acres around the Quill Lakes with the help of Sask. Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization. The value of this land was used to obtain more funding. Used Geographic Information System (GIS) software and land cover data to identify 196 parcels (1,100 acres) of long-term vacant Crown land that was critical for migratory birds but had no form of protection.
To assess the cropland conversion program in the Missouri Coteau and determine extension needs and identify potential lands for long-term securement.	In cooperation with Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Prairie Conservation Action Plan, the Corporation performed detailed assessments on 19,000 acres of native prairie, 16,000 acres of crop land converted to perennial forages and 310 wetland crop land conversion programs from 1996 to 1997.
To improve breeding bird habitat by converting marginal cropland to forage based agriculture.	Worked with landowners and Ducks Unlimited Canada to convert almost 12,000 acres of cropland to pasture and hay providing better grassland bird habitat for waterfowl and grassland birds.
To secure and enhance wetland, riparian and native prairie by working with landowners in stewardship programs.	Funds raised for Prairie Shores provided matching contributions for the development of the Native Prairie Stewardship and Streambank Stewardship programs. Published a landowner guide "Managing Saskatchewan Wetlands" with support from Ducks Unlimited Canada, SaskWater and the Prairie Shores funders to assist with stewardship projects. Implemented enhancement projects at three saline lakes in the Missouri Coteau. Coordinated field day and workshop for landowners in Quill Lakes in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited Canada.
To understand the habitat requirements of grassland birds, shorebirds, waterfowl and waterbirds and how their populations are influenced by agricultural and habitat conservation programs.	Monitored grassland habitat of lands secured and managed in the Quill Lakes area. Provided extension to lessees of Crown land in the Quill Lakes area.
To complete a two year study with IWWR on how the type and frequency of management of planted cover influences grassland bird abundance. To initiate a study on nest-site selection of Northern Pintail in the Missouri Coteau.	Initiated a study on native pasture, tame pasture, and hayland to evaluate the effectiveness of cropland conversion programs for waterfowl and grassland birds in the Missouri Coteau. Monitored Piping Plovers at Chaplin Lake to determine whether the management activities are influencing abundance and reproduction success.

Prairie Shores

Introduction

Prairie Shores, the Corporation's wetland program, operates under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The focus of the program is on breeding waterfowl, but direct benefits accrue to threatened and endangered species, shorebirds, grassland birds and colonial water birds. Prairie Shores encourages sustainable land use for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

Goals

- To secure critical wetland and upland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, grassland birds and water birds.
- To establish native prairie and riparian stewardship initiatives that encourage landowners to adopt management practices which conserve wildlife habitat for future generations.

Objectives	Results
To secure lands that are classified as critical for wildlife.	Acquired and improved the habitat quality of 32,000 acres around the Quill Lakes with the help of Sask. Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization. The value of this land was used to obtain more funding. Used Geographic Information System (GIS) software and land cover data to identify 196 parcels (1,100 acres) of long-term vacant Crown land that was critical for migratory birds but had no form of protection.
To assess the cropland conversion program in the Missouri Coteau and determine extension needs and identify potential lands for long-term securement.	In cooperation with Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Prairie Conservation Action Plan, the Corporation performed detailed assessments on 19,000 acres of native prairie, 16,000 acres of crop land converted to perennial forages and 310 wetland crop land conversion programs from 1996 to 1997.
To improve breeding bird habitat by converting marginal cropland to forage based agriculture.	Worked with landowners and Ducks Unlimited Canada to convert almost 12,000 acres of cropland to pasture and hay providing better grassland bird habitat for waterfowl and grassland birds.
To secure and enhance wetland, riparian and native prairie by working with landowners in stewardship programs.	Funds raised for Prairie Shores provided matching contributions for the development of the Native Prairie Stewardship and Streambank Stewardship programs. Published a landowner guide "Managing Saskatchewan Wetlands" with support from Ducks Unlimited Canada, SaskWater and the Prairie Shores funders to assist with stewardship projects. Implemented enhancement projects at three saline lakes in the Missouri Coteau. Coordinated field day and workshop for landowners in Quill Lakes in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited Canada.
To understand the habitat requirements of grassland birds, shorebirds, waterfowl and waterbirds and how their populations are influenced by agricultural and habitat conservation programs.	Monitored grassland habitat of lands secured and managed in the Quill Lakes area. Provided extension to lessees of Crown land in the Quill Lakes area.
To complete a two year study with IWWR on how the type and frequency of management of planted cover influences grass-land bird abundance. To initiate a study on nest-site selection of Northern Pintail in the Missouri Coteau.	Initiated a study on native pasture, tame pasture, and hayland to evaluate the effectiveness of cropland conversion programs for waterfowl and grassland birds in the Missouri Coteau. Monitored Piping Plovers at Chaplin Lake to determine whether the management activities are influencing abundance and reproduction success.

Dick and Diane Coombs' management plan includes exclusion fencing of a wetland, gravel cattle crossing of a marsh area, a solar-powered watering system, and converting cropland to forage on their cattle operation near Wroxton.

Kara Riess dons protective gear to keep mosquitoes and deer flies from biting her while counting Piping Plovers on alkali lakes in southern Saskatchewan.

Roland Bear and Sue Michalski converted almost 300 acres of cropland to forage, and restored 20 acres of native prairie on their ranch near the Cypress Hills.

▼ **Mark and Grant Vermeulen installed fencing to exclude cattle from two alkali lakes on their farm near Ceylon, which attracted waterfowl and shorebirds including the endangered Piping Plover.**

In Appreciation

Financial support of the following organizations in Prairie Shores activities is greatly appreciated.

- California Waterfowl Association
- Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service)
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- North American Wetlands Conservation Council
- Pheasants Forever Inc.
- Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization
- Saskatchewan Environment (Fish and Wildlife Branch)
- The Nature Conservancy (U.S.)
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
- Wildlife Habitat Canada
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department

◀ Burrowing Owl

For more information check our website under Prairie Shores at www.wetland.sk.ca

native prairie

Streambank Stewardship

Goal

- To increase the awareness of the importance, value and function of riparian ecosystems by implementing a comprehensive approach to encourage stewardship of riparian areas targeted at landowners, government agencies and other interested organizations.

Dwane Mörvik raises Targhee sheep on native grass and tame forage along the Frenchman River in south-west Saskatchewan. He improved his grazing system by developing a new water distribution system.

Objectives	Results
To assist landowners in implementing enhancement projects and demonstration sites.	The total number of demonstration projects established with the support of landowners is now in excess of 150 involving more than 140 kilometers of creeks or rivers. These projects demonstrate good riparian management.
	Initiated watershed stewardship projects in the Upper Assiniboine River, Frenchman River and Qu'Appelle River basins in 2001.
	Continued work in the five originally-targeted watersheds: Long Creek; Bone Creek/Swift Current Creek; Wood River/Missouri Coteau; Crescent Creek/Whitesand River; Arm River/Last Mountain Lake.
To provide training sessions and information for extension staff and landowners.	Led three workshops on riparian health and assessment for extension staff in cooperation with PFRA.
	Coordinated eight workshops and field tours in cooperation with other agencies. Participation by landowners doubled over the previous year.
To provide program support through extension and communication materials.	Continued distribution of "*Classification and Management of Saskatchewan Riparian and Wetland Sites of the Saskatchewan Prairie Ecozone and Parts of Adjacent Subregions*" by S. Godfrey, P.L. Hanson and W.H. Thompson.
	The educational riparian video, "*Caring for a Prairie Treasure*" continued to broadcast on SCN and the province's three cable stations.
	Developed landowner "Success Stories" and advertisements for publication in weekly newspapers and agricultural newsletters.
	Developed displays and participated in several agricultural trade shows.
	Delivered a presentation on the program at the Society for Range Management's annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri.
	Produced and distributed site signage for landowner projects.
	Produced a 13 week radio series profiling landowners in the Missouri Coteau area.
	Surveyed producers in two highly cultivated landscapes - Yellow Grass Creek and Good Spirit Creek in cooperation with PFRA and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

For more information check our website under Streambank Stewardship Program at **www.wetland.sk.ca**

Streambank Stewardship

- **To increase the awareness of the importance, value and function of riparian ecosystems by implementing a comprehensive approach to encourage stewardship of riparian areas targeted at landowners, government agencies and other interested organizations.**

Objectives	Results
To assist landowners in implementing enhancement projects and demonstration sites.	The total number of demonstration projects established with the support of landowners is now in excess of 150 involving more than 140 kilometers of creeks or rivers. These projects demonstrate good riparian management. Initiated watershed stewardship projects in the Upper Assiniboine River, Frenchman River and Qu'Appelle River basins in 2001. Continued work in the five originally-targeted watersheds: Long Creek; Bone Creek Swift Current Creek; Wood River Missouri Coteau; Crescent Creek Whitesand River; Arm River Last Mountain Lake.
To provide training sessions and information for extension staff and landowners.	Led three workshops on riparian health and assessment for extension staff in cooperation with PFRA. Coordinated eight workshops and field tours in cooperation with other agencies. Participation by landowners doubled over the previous year.
To provide program support through extension and communication materials.	Continued distribution of "*Classification and Management of Saskatchewan Riparian and Wetland Sites of the Saskatchewan Prairie Ecozone and Parts of Adjacent Subregions*" by S. Godfrey, P.L. Hanson and W.H. Thompson. The educational riparian video, "*Caring for a Prairie Treasure*" continued to broadcast on SCN and the province's three cable stations. Developed landowner "Success Stories" and advertisements for publication in weekly newspapers and agricultural newsletters. Developed displays and participated in several agricultural trade shows. Delivered a presentation on the program at the Society for Range Management's annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. Produced and distributed site signage for landowner projects. Produced a 13 week radio series profiling landowners in the Missouri Coteau area. Surveyed producers in two highly cultivated landscapes - Yellow Grass Creek and Good Spirit Creek in cooperation with PFRA and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

For more information check our website under Streambank Stewardship Program at **www.wetland.sk.ca**

Duane Thompson, Kelliher, has struck a balance in his livestock operation. By "managing for optimums", both environmentally and economically, he has improved his bottom line and nurtured habitat along the Whitesand River.

Blair Bendickson, Gladmar, improved the grazing capacity of his tame pasture so his native grass could rest during the spring growing season.

Rudy and Ingrid Bjork's homestead near Radville borders both banks of Long Creek and is often flooded by April flood waters. Their conservation project included converting a half-section of saline crop land to tame pasture, improving the cattle watering system, and making better use of native rangeland.

Brian Reinson is one of many cattle producers near Melville, Saskatchewan, who helped to improve water quality in Crescent Creek.

Bill Bryant from the Cote First Nation near Kamsack implemented management plans to decrease soil erosion along the Whitesand and Assiniboine Rivers, improve water quality and enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

Dale and Robert Minhinnick farm near Invermay, and have set up a demonstration project featuring solar-watering technology, exclusion fencing from an important waterfowl site, converting cropland to forage, and a rotational grazing system.

In Appreciation

The financial support of the following organizations in Streambank Stewardship activities is greatly appreciated.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through:

- Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Initiative (AESI)
- Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development in Saskatchewan (CARDS)
- National Soil and Water Program
- Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
- The Agri-Food Innovation Agreement

Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization through:

- The Saskatchewan Grazing and Pasture Technology Program

Prairie Shores Funders:

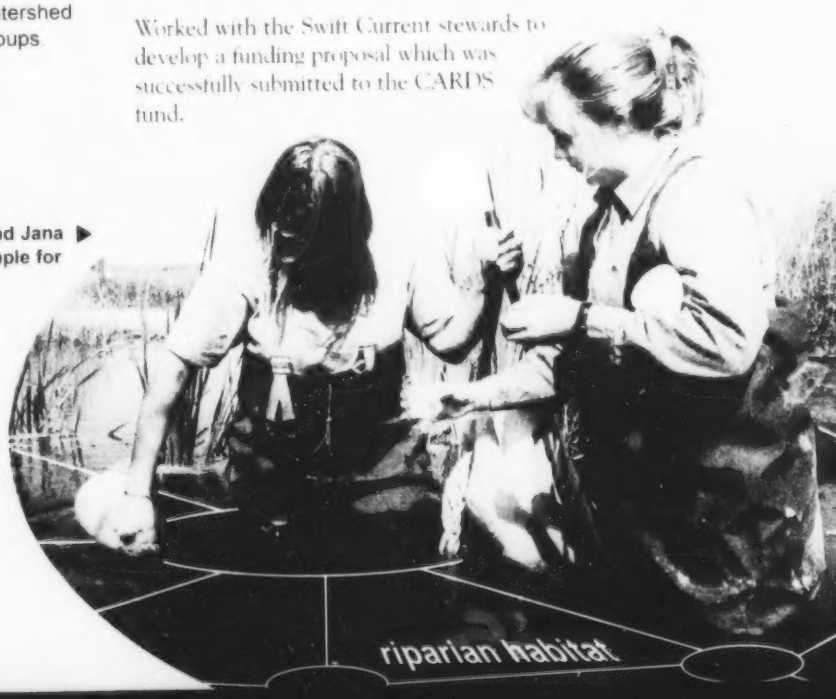
- California Waterfowl Association
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- North American Wetlands Conservation Council
- Pheasants Forever Inc.
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
- The Nature Conservancy (U.S.)
- Wildlife Habitat Canada
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Prairie Water Care

Stewardship

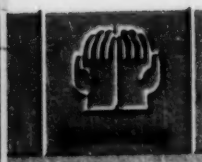
- To increase public awareness of issues affecting the health of Saskatchewan watersheds
- To allow volunteers the opportunity to be involved with the maintenance of key riparian areas

Objectives	Results
To identify and train volunteer water monitoring groups.	12 volunteer groups are currently monitoring local rivers and lakes. At least 4 new groups are to join the volunteer water monitoring program during the next year. These groups include Beaver Creek, Crescent Creek, Duncairn Dam, Saskatoon Catholic School at Eagle Creek, Goodspirit Lake, Laura Multiple 4-H Club at Eagle Creek, Lac Pelletier, Moosmoin Lake, Medicine Hat, Alberta on the Saskatchewan River, Jackfish Murray Lake, Swift Current Creek, The Pas, Manitoba on the Carrot River, Wakamaw Valley Authority on the Moose Jaw River, Wakaw Lake and Rock Creek.
To set-up demonstration projects aimed at increasing water quality in target areas (areas where there are volunteer monitoring groups).	6 demonstration projects launched in the target areas: • 2 in Crescent Creek; • 2 in Swift Current Creek; • 1 in Moose Jaw River; • 1 in the Jackfish Lake Watershed. The majority of the projects have focused on keeping cattle out of the creeks or lake while one project involves noxious weed control along a creek.
To educate the public about riparian health and encourage organizations to become aware of conditions which contribute to a healthy riparian area and affect water quality.	A Prairie Water Care brochure printed and distributed at trade shows and town hall meetings. Presentations delivered at several conferences, workshops, and town hall meetings.
To provide support for the development of independent Watershed Stewardship Groups.	Three Watershed stewardship groups have already been formed and two more are in the initial stages. Worked with the Swift Current stewards to develop a funding proposal which was successfully submitted to the CARDS fund.



Kendra Loucks and Jana Lutz collect a sample for fecal coliform .

Prairie Water Care



Goals

- To increase public awareness of issues affecting the health of Saskatchewan watersheds
- To allow volunteers the opportunity to be involved with the maintenance of key riparian areas

Objectives	Results
To identify and train volunteer water monitoring groups.	12 volunteer groups are currently monitoring local rivers and lakes. At least 4 new groups are to join the volunteer water monitoring program during the next year. These groups include Beaver Creek, Crescent Creek, Duncairn Dam, Saskatoon Catholic School at Eagle Creek, Goodspirit Lake, Laura Multiple 4-H Club at Eagle Creek, Lac Pelletier, Moosmoin Lake, Medicine Hat, Alberta on the Saskatchewan River, Jackfish Murray Lake, Swift Current Creek, The Pas, Manitoba on the Carrot River, Wakamaw Valley Authority on the Moose Jaw River, Wakaw Lake and Rock Creek.
To set-up demonstration projects aimed at increasing water quality in target areas (areas where there are volunteer monitoring groups).	6 demonstration projects launched in the target areas: • 2 in Crescent Creek; • 2 in Swift Current Creek; • 1 in Moose Jaw River; • 1 in the Jackfish Lake Watershed. The majority of the projects have focused on keeping cattle out of the creeks or lake while one project involves noxious weed control along a creek.
To educate the public about riparian health and encourage organizations to become aware of conditions which contribute to a healthy riparian area and affect water quality.	A Prairie Water Care brochure printed and distributed at trade shows and town hall meetings. Presentations delivered at several conferences, workshops, and town hall meetings.
To provide support for the development of independent Watershed Stewardship Groups.	Three Watershed stewardship groups have already been formed and two more are in the initial stages. Worked with the Swift Current stewards to develop a funding proposal which was successfully submitted to the CARDS fund.

Kendra Loucks and Jana Lutz collect a sample for fecal coliform .

Students from Sister O'Brien School in Saskatoon collect water samples from Eagle Creek

Volunteers from the Crescent Creek Prairie Water Care group test the dissolved oxygen levels and total dissolved solids in a water sample from Crescent Creek

In Appreciation:

The financial support of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development in Saskatchewan (CARDS) program.

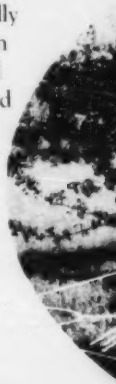
For more information on Prairie Water Care, check our website under Streambank Stewardship at www.wetland.sk.ca

Native Prairie Stewardship

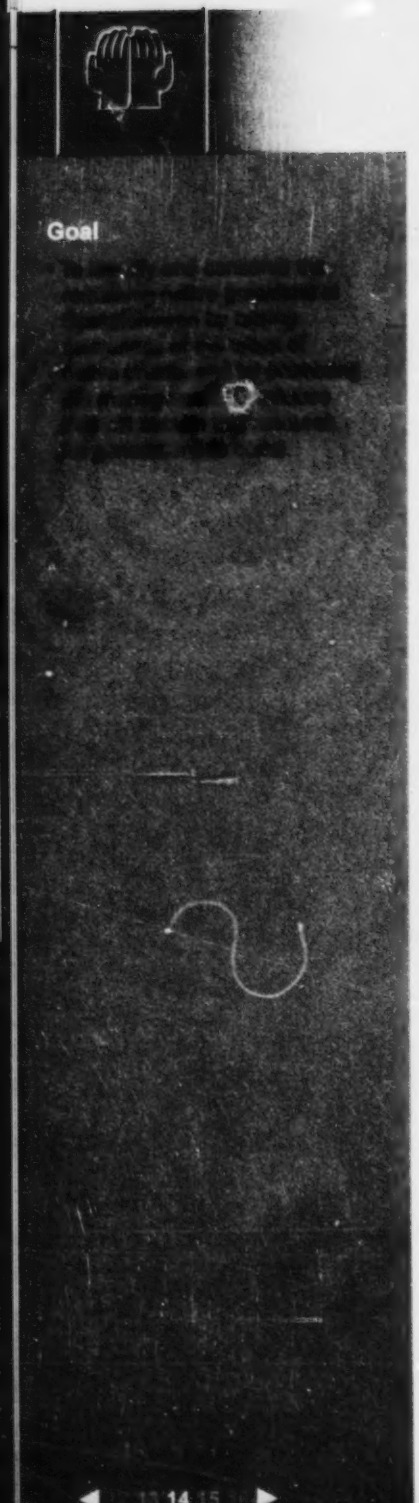
Goal

- To identify and conserve the remaining native grassland in Saskatchewan by raising awareness of the value of native prairie, and by promoting the management techniques that will sustain this resource for generations to come.

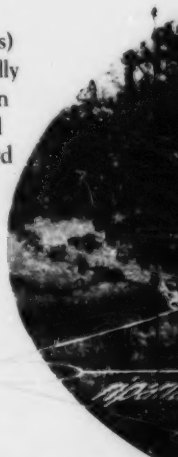
Objectives	Results
To encourage landowners to enter into voluntary stewardship agreements to conserve native prairie on their land.	Signed up 222 stewards managing 94,000 acres for a total of over 770 stewards representing over 320,000 acres enrolled in the program.
To establish demonstration sites featuring prairie enhancement and restoration projects.	Established 39 prairie management demonstration projects in cooperation with landowners who hold over 12,000 acres of native prairie. Started an additional 920 seedlings of 23 species at the SaskPower Shand Greenhouse. These seedlings will be used to fill in bare spots in the beds in the Regina Plain Native Seed Nursery. The Seed Nursery contains a total of 89 species. Seed harvesting continued in 2001. In the Missouri Coteau, negotiated 14 habitat enhancement projects, including 3 projects targeting Burrowing Owl habitat, 10 targeting Piping Plover habitat, and 1 targeting native prairie habitat. In the Frenchman River Basin, 4 habitat enhancement projects targeting Burrowing Owl habitat have been negotiated. All four projects were within three miles of an active Burrowing Owl nest or one that had a nesting pair in 2001. In total, 1,721 acres of cropland were converted to perennial cover, an additional 120 acres of cropland were seeded using a seed mix that included native grass and forb seed, 13.5 miles of cross-fence were built, and 6 remote watering systems were constructed. Continued preparation of University of Regina restoration site.
To promote understanding and positive attitudes about native prairie to both rural and urban audiences through personal visits, workshops, publications and the media.	Conducted range symposia or field tours in Radville, Ogema, Gravelbourg, Val Marie, Eastend, and Shaunavon attended by 237 producers. All of the 18 enhancement projects are featured on the web site and can be accessed through www.wetland.sk.ca. Also posted an interactive map and four virtual tours of demonstration sites on the website. Produced "*The Land Manager's Guide to Grassland Birds of Saskatchewan*". The 56-page guide features detailed illustrations of 33 birds (including several endangered species) and 10 plant species. The content, presented in a user-friendly style and format, provides ranchers with basic information on the identification, habitat and biology of grassland birds, and the impact of various pasture management options on the bird species discussed. Contacted 373 landowners and conducted 297 in-person visits. Produced a series of "*Success Stories*" and advertisements for publication in the rural press and partner newsletters. Developed display materials and participated in several agricultural trade shows and conferences.



Native Prairie Stewardship



Objectives	Results
To encourage landowners to enter into voluntary stewardship agreements to conserve native prairie on their land.	Signed up 222 stewards managing 94,000 acres for a total of over 770 stewards representing over 320,000 acres enrolled in the program.
To establish demonstration sites featuring prairie enhancement and restoration projects.	Established 39 prairie management demonstration projects in cooperation with landowners who hold over 12,000 acres of native prairie. Started an additional 920 seedlings of 23 species at the SaskPower Shand Greenhouse. These seedlings will be used to fill in bare spots in the beds in the Regina Plain Native Seed Nursery. The Seed Nursery contains a total of 89 species. Seed harvesting continued in 2001. In the Missouri Coteau, negotiated 14 habitat enhancement projects, including 3 projects targeting Burrowing Owl habitat, 10 targeting Piping Plover habitat, and 1 targeting native prairie habitat. In the Frenchman River Basin, 4 habitat enhancement projects targeting Burrowing Owl habitat have been negotiated. All four projects were within three miles of an active Burrowing Owl nest or one that had a nesting pair in 2001. In total, 1,721 acres of cropland were converted to perennial cover, an additional 120 acres of cropland were seeded using a seed mix that included native grass and forb seed, 13.5 miles of cross-fence were built, and 6 remote watering systems were constructed. Continued preparation of University of Regina restoration site.
To promote understanding and positive attitudes about native prairie to both rural and urban audiences through personal visits, workshops, publications and the media.	Conducted range symposia or field tours in Radville, Ogema, Gravelbourg, Val Marie, Eastend, and Shaunavon attended by 237 producers. All of the 18 enhancement projects are featured on the web site and can be accessed through www.wetland.sk.ca. Also posted an interactive map and four virtual tours of demonstration sites on the website. Produced "*The Land Manager's Guide to Grassland Birds of Saskatchewan*". The 56-page guide features detailed illustrations of 33 birds (including several endangered species) and 10 plant species. The content, presented in a user-friendly style and format, provides ranchers with basic information on the identification, habitat and biology of grassland birds, and the impact of various pasture management options on the bird species discussed. Contacted 373 landowners and conducted 297 in-person visits. Produced a series of "*Success Stories*" and advertisements for publication in the rural press and partner newsletters. Developed display materials and participated in several agricultural trade shows and conferences.



Produced and distributed four issues of the Native Prairie Update.
Developed a web-based training course for native prairie stewards in partnership with the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan.
Produced and distributed site signage for landowners.

Randy Pillar Neudorf holds the new Prairie Stewardship sign. Randy developed a riparian improvement project on his land.

To conduct inventories of remnant prairie to determine condition and threats.

Assessed an additional 9,800 acres of native prairie within the Missouri Coteau.
Location information for known occurrences of priority species (Burrowing Owl, Greater Sage-Grouse, Ferruginous Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, and Swift Fox) in the Frenchman River basin was plotted in a GIS and incorporated into a map product along with land cover and land ownership.
Conducted 183 lentic and 114 range assessments on 30 high priority Piping Plover basins.

To work in partnership with private individuals, and non-government and government agencies who share similar goals.

Worked on projects with the following organizations: Ducks Unlimited (non-government), Important Bird Area Network (non-government), The Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan (non-government), Nature Conservancy Canada (non-government), Nature Saskatchewan (non-government), Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP), Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (federal agriculture department), Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre (non-government), Saskatchewan Environment (provincial department), University of Regina.

Willet

Phyllis and Ivan Glynyk farm adjacent to the Whitesand River near Canora. They developed a management plan to relocate corrals, seed buffer strips and develop remote watering sites.

Esther and Otto Thornberg's 1200 acre farm near Eastend includes 1200 acres of Native Prairie and an active burrowing owl nesting site. They have converted some crop land to forage and plan to seed more permanent forage in the years ahead. "We are going to rejuvenate the land that grows nothing but kochia and other weeds. It should grow hay and give us some fall grazing after the hay is off."

Langham area farmer Chris Webb has a cattle operation that spans three generations. "My goal is to take cultivated land, plant it to tame forage, and get three times the production out of it by grazing cattle."

New publication features 33 grassland birds and 10 native plant species. It provides landowners with basic information on bird identification, habitat and biology, as well as how pasture management influences grassland birds and their habitat.

In Appreciation

The financial and in-kind support of the following organizations in Native Prairie Stewardship activities is greatly appreciated.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through:

- Agriculture Institute of Management in Saskatchewan, Inc
- Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Initiative
- Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development in Saskatchewan program
- Canadian Agriculture Rural Communities Initiative
- Canada-Saskatchewan Agricultural Green Plan Agreement

Canada Millennium Partnership Program
Canadian Wildlife Service and World Wildlife Fund through:

- Endangered Species Recovery Fund

Ducks Unlimited Canada
Environment Canada through:

- Canadian Wildlife Service
- EcoAction Community Funding program

Government of Canada through:

- Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (U.S.)
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Saskatchewan Environment through:

- Fish and Wildlife Development Fund

SaskPower Shand Greenhouse
TD - Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation
Wildlife Habitat Canada
World Wildlife Fund

For more information on Native Prairie, check our website under Native Prairie at **www.wetland.sk.ca**

North American Waterfowl Management Plan

Goals

Objectives

To provide for a Waterfowl Crop Damage Protection Program delivered by our partners.

Results

Through this program, delivered by Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management, feeding stations and lure crops are established to reduce waterfowl damage to crops located near large marshes.

Funding for the program is provided through the Federal/Provincial Crop Damage Prevention Agreement on a 50-50 cost share basis. In Saskatchewan, $249,730 was spent on a waterfowl damage prevention during the year (including feeding stations and the provision of waterfowl scare cannons) half of which was provided by the provincial government.

The Crop Damage Compensation Program delivered by the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, compensates landowners for crop loss caused by feeding waterfowl. Approximately $234,000 was paid to Saskatchewan farmers in 2001/2002 to compensate for waterfowl damage.

To maintain a strong partnership with Ducks Unlimited to deliver the Prairie Care Program in Saskatchewan.

In 2001/02, the Prairie Care program developed by Ducks Unlimited Canada, secured 93, 840 acres of new uplands and wetlands. Of this acreage 16, 198 acres were purchased or leased with the remainder secured under a combination of land management agreements and easements.

In 2001, Ducks Unlimited continued its forage programs intended at helping producers diversify their cropping options to include perennial forages. Forage conversion and forage seed production programs offer incentives for landowners interested in converting marginal cultivated land to be used for hay or pasture. Other forage programs include timothy for densified hay production and promotion of red clover/sweet clover mixes for silage production.

Ducks Unlimited participates in several research and demonstration projects with other agencies on carbon sequestration , timothy production, variety adaptation, weed control, companion crops and forage management. New acreage enrolled in forage programs in 2001 totalled 56,550 acres.

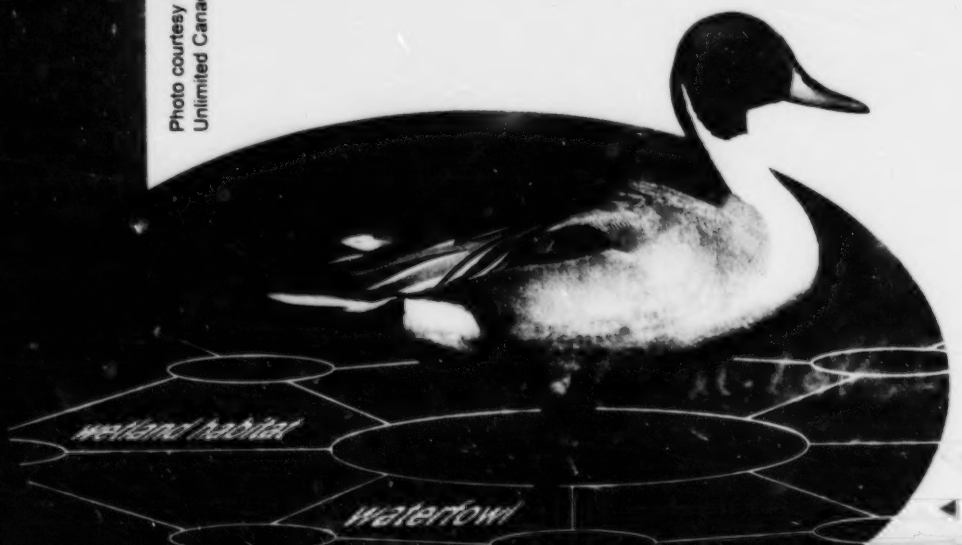


Photo courtesy Ducks Unlimited Canada

North American Waterfowl Management Plan

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) is an agreement among Canada, the United States and Mexico to restore waterfowl populations and improve habitat for other wetland dependent wildlife. Twelve Habitat Joint Ventures have been established across Canada to help facilitate activities in key waterfowl habitat areas. Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba belong to the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture.
In Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation coordinates the Plan, and delivers the Prairie Shores Program. Ducks Unlimited Canada delivers the Prairie Care, Large Wetlands and Nest Structure Programs. Saskatchewan Crop Insurance and Saskatchewan Environment deliver the Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention and Compensation Program.
Over the past 16 years NAWMP partners have contributed $703 million and secured 3 million acres in Canada.

Goals

- To encourage sustainable land use practices on private and Crown land
- To improve habitat through provision of upland nesting cover and retention of small wetland complexes
- To identify, protect and manage wetlands important for all migratory birds

Objectives

To provide for a Waterfowl Crop Damage Protection Program delivered by our partners.

Results

Through this program, delivered by Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management, feeding stations and lure crops are established to reduce waterfowl damage to crops located near large marshes.

Funding for the program is provided through the Federal Provincial Crop Damage Prevention Agreement on a 50-50 cost share basis. In Saskatchewan, $249,730 was spent on a waterfowl damage prevention during the year (including feeding stations and the provision of waterfowl scare cannons) half of which was provided by the provincial government.

The Crop Damage Compensation Program delivered by the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, compensates landowners for crop loss caused by feeding waterfowl. Approximately $234,000 was paid to Saskatchewan farmers in 2001/2002 to compensate for waterfowl damage.

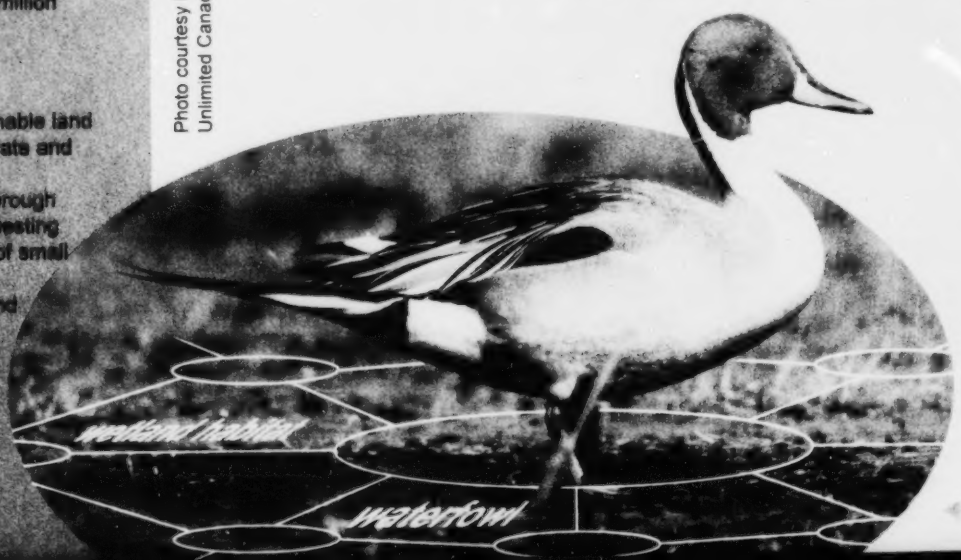
To maintain a strong partnership with Ducks Unlimited to deliver the Prairie Care Program in Saskatchewan.

In 2001/02, the Prairie Care program developed by Ducks Unlimited Canada, secured 93, 840 acres of new uplands and wetlands. Of this acreage 16, 198 acres were purchased or leased with the remainder secured under a combination of land management agreements and easements.

In 2001, Ducks Unlimited continued its forage programs intended at helping producers diversify their cropping options to include perennial forages. Forage conversion and forage seed production programs offer incentives for landowners interested in converting marginal cultivated land to be used for hay or pasture. Other forage programs include timothy for densified hay production and promotion of red clover/sweet clover mixes for silage production.

Ducks Unlimited participates in several research and demonstration projects with other agencies on carbon sequestration , timothy production, variety adaptation, weed control, companion crops and forage management. New acreage enrolled in forage programs in 2001 totalled 56,550 acres.

Photo courtesy Ducks Unlimited Canada



Results

The Flushing Bar Program continues at a modest level throughout the NAWMP Key Program areas of Saskatchewan. Flushing Bars have proved to be effective in reducing mortality of duck hens and other wildlife during haying operations. About 122,000 acres of hay are cut annually using flushing bars in Saskatchewan. There are now sufficient numbers of bars located throughout the province and producers are aware of their benefits. Most offices have some flushing bars on hand for producers that request them.

For the period January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001, a total of $1,782,700 was spent on modified agricultural programs. A total of 67,545 acres were secured for $222.200. A total of 34,399 acres were enhanced at a cost of $1,543,600 and management costs on 158, 878 acres cost $16,900.

Ducks Unlimited conducted an evaluation of the "conserve and win" program offered throughout the Prairie Pothole Region.

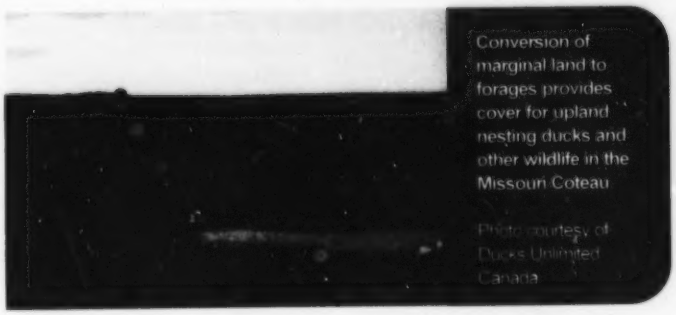
The twenty year goal for winter wheat is to have it become the dominant wheat crop grown in the prairie region. To achieve this goal, DU has provided a contribution to assist in the development of a double haploid laboratory at the University of Saskatchewan, and established a relationship with Agriculture Canada, Lethbridge Research Station to further the development of Winter Wheat varieties that are adapted throughout the Prairie Pothole Region.

In 2001, DU continued its' forage programs to help producers diversify their cropping options to include perennial forages. The extension component of these programs includes the provision of technical assistance and extension materials. Several offices offer a Salinity Barrier Program where forages act as a barrier to salt movement to the soil surface and to adjacent cropland.

DU participates in several research and demonstration projects with other agencies on carbon sequestration, timothy production, variety adaptation, weed-control, companion crops and forage management.

DU demonstrates planned grazing systems to convert cultivated lands to pasture and to improve the quality of existing pasture for duck nesting and other wildlife benefits. Assistance is provided to producers for forage conversion, fencing, solar pumps, forage inventory and set-up of grazing schedules.

DU partnered with SWCC, and implemented a new Rangeland Stewardship Program to promote the sustainable use of native rangeland for the benefit of agriculture, waterfowl and other wildlife.



Conversion of marginal land to forages provides cover for upland nesting ducks and other wildlife in the Missouri Coteau

Photo courtesy of Ducks Unlimited Canada

Total expenditures on extension work for the period January 1, 2001 to Dec. 31, 2001 amounted to $708,400.

Land management agreements ranging from 7 to 21 years are negotiated with landowners to modify agricultural use on a parcel of land. Modification of use is designed to benefit both agriculture and wildlife, specifically migratory birds. Planned grazing systems, crop land conversion to forages, delayed hay cut, under seed clover and restoration of inter-pothole habitat are options currently available through the Prairie CARE program.

Activities targeting intensive upland habitat goals focus on long term securement options such as purchase, lease, crown land use agreements and conservation easements. All leases, management agreements and crown agreements require a 10 year minimum term. Total expenditures on intensive uplands for the period January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001, was $7,187,400. Securement of 16,198 acres of intensive upland acres incurred an expenditure of $5,051,100. Enhancement was undertaken on 7839 acres at a cost of $1,314,600.

Small wetlands, or potholes, are secured through land purchase and also remain a condition of upland lease and land management agreements. Large Wetlands or the Wetland Conservation program has evolved to include both large wetlands and brood habitat wetlands, typically less than 500 acres in size. Within key program areas where wetland permanency is limiting, brood habitat wetlands are being secured, enhanced and managed by water level control. For the period January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001, a total of 10,249 acres were secured under the Large Wetlands program at a cost of $234,300. Enhancement activities involved 31,724 acres at a cost of $13,100, while 159,849 acres were managed at a cost of $863,800.

Working with Communities

Objectives

To work with the coordinator and steering committee of the Saskatchewan Birding Trail to oversee the development of the Birding Trail, and expenditures from various grants.

Results

Continued to work with the Chaplin, Morse and Quill Lakes tourism committees on the development of the Saskatchewan Birding Trail.

Supported by grants, a number of milestones were achieved. Councillors from Wynyard, Foam Lake and Wadena met to discuss eco-tourism potential, sharing of resources and future partnerships.

Renovations started on the old Wynyard Fire Hall in preparation for converting the building into the new home of the Quill Lakes Interpretive Centre, Foam Lake Visitor Centre and Wadena Visitor Centre.

Filed applications with the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission for installation of a trio of short-range FM radio stations to broadcast tourism message to tourists travelling the Quill Lakes area.

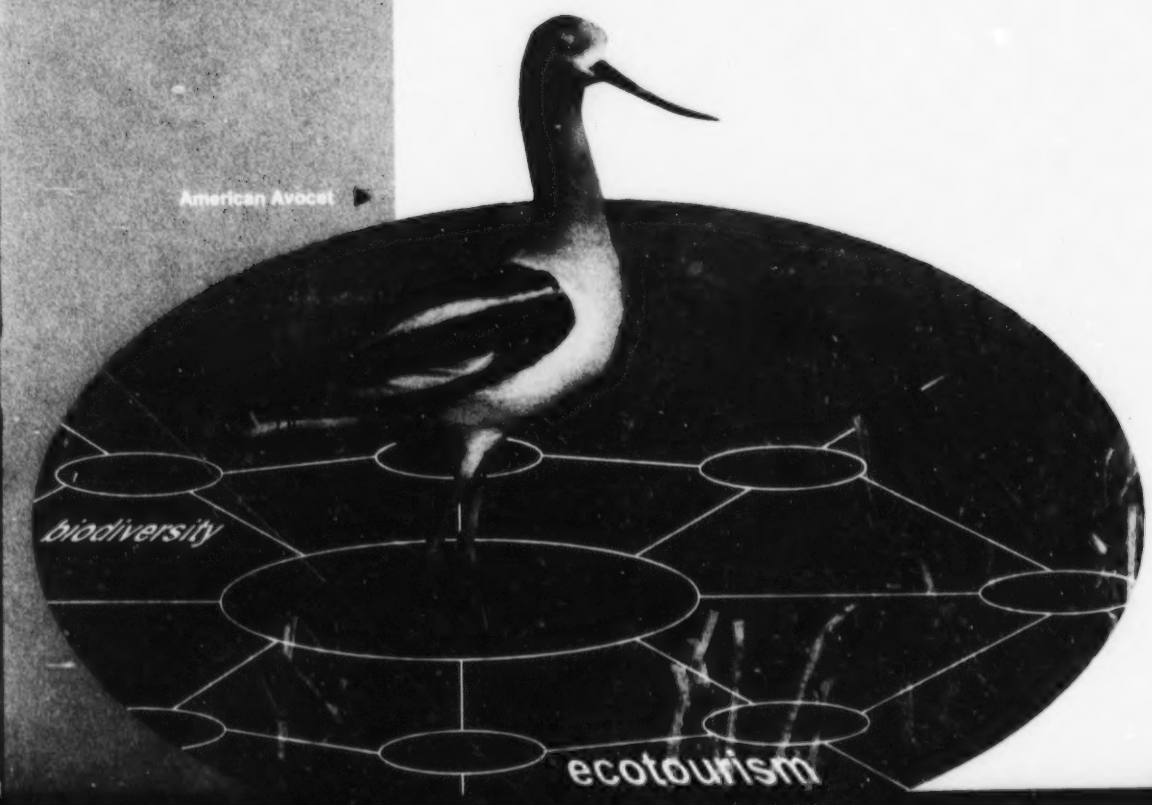
More than 100,000 tourists have visited the Chaplin birding site since 1997, including almost 26,000 in 2001.

Construction began on a 2,200 square foot addition to the Chaplin Nature Centre.

Constructed a viewing tower and interpretive signage to enhance wildlife viewing at Morse on Reed Lake.

Goal

- To work with communities in the development of a Saskatchewan Bird Trail (a network of birding sites) which will secure habitat for migratory birds, and assist rural communities in sustainable community development.



Working with Communities

Goal

- **To work with communities in the development of a Saskatchewan Bird Trail (a network of birding sites) which will secure habitat for migratory birds, and assist rural communities in sustainable community development.**

Objectives

To work with the coordinator and steering committee of the Saskatchewan Birding Trail to oversee the development of the Birding Trail, and expenditures from various grants.

Results

Continued to work with the Chaplin, Morse and Quill Lakes tourism committees on the development of the Saskatchewan Birding Trail.

Supported by grants, a number of milestones were achieved. Councillors from Wynyard, Foam Lake and Wadena met to discuss eco-tourism potential, sharing of resources and future partnerships.

Renovations started on the old Wynyard Fire Hall in preparation for converting the building into the new home of the Quill Lakes Interpretive Centre, Foam Lake Visitor Centre and Wadena Visitor Centre.

Filed applications with the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission for installation of a trio of short-range FM radio stations to broadcast tourism message to tourists travelling the Quill Lakes area.

More than 100,000 tourists have visited the Chaplin birding site since 1997, including almost 26,000 in 2001.

Construction began on a 2,200 square foot addition to the Chaplin Nature Centre.

Constructed a viewing tower and interpretive signage to enhance wildlife viewing at Morse on Reed Lake.

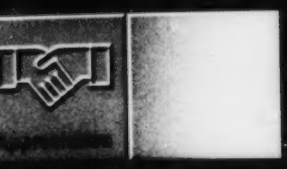
Loggerhead Shrike ▶

Ecotourism in Saskatchewan made great strides in the Quill Lakes area. The towns of Wynyard, Wadena and Foam Lake worked together to establish a Quill Lakes Visitor Centre at Wynyard. The group also worked on a new highway signing for the area and improved the wildlife viewing sites.

Photo courtesy of Quill Lakes Tourism Committee

At Chaplin, an expansion of the Nature Centre is currently underway to add approximately 2000 square feet to the present building. Construction of new displays is in progress and expected to be completed by the spring of 2003.

Photo courtesy of Josh Bilyk



In Appreciation

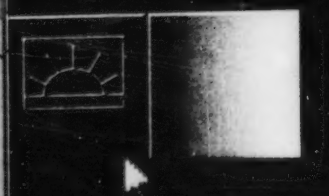
We appreciate the commitment of wildlife conservation and sustainable land use management of organizations and individuals contributing more than $1,000 in funds to the Corporation's programming during 2001 - 2002.

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Initiative, the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development in Saskatchewan program, the Canadian Agricultural Rural Communities Initiative, and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
- California Waterfowl Association
- Canadian Wildlife Foundation
- Environment Canada through the Canadian Wildlife Service, EcoACTION, Endangered Species Recovery Fund, and the Habitat Stewardship Program
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (U.S.)
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Nature Saskatchewan
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office
- Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin
- Pheasants Forever Inc. (U.S.)
- Pheasants Forever Saskatchewan
- R.M. of Lumsden
- R.M. of Long Laketon
- Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization
- Saskatchewan Environment through the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, and the Fish and Wildlife Branch
- Sask Minerals
- Sask Power Shand Greenhouse
- Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
- The Nature Conservancy U.S.
- TransCanada Pipelines
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- Wildlife Habitat Canada
- Wildlife Habitat U.S.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through vehicles such as the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration and the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development in Saskatchewan program works to ensure the sustainable use of the prairie's irreplaceable soil and water resources. Through its various initiatives it fosters long-term growth, employment, and competitiveness in rural areas by providing measures to assist the sector in adapting to structural changes, capturing market opportunities, and building strong foundations in rural communities.

Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service) recognizes that the success of habitat protection across Canada relies heavily upon the voluntary actions of private landowners, and has introduced initiatives to assist Canadians to protect and maintain wildlife habitat across the country. Through its involvement with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, EcoAction Community Funding program, and as the lead agency in implementing the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, Environment Canada is focussed on promoting effective partnerships that enhance the environmental quality of landscapes.

Saskatchewan Environment through an ecosystem based management approach, promotes the conservation of biodiversity and the maintenance of essential ecological processes and life support systems to all sectors of the Saskatchewan population. Through its contribution to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund among others, it works to ensure that the natural heritage enjoyed by one generation is maintained and passed on to sustain future generations.



Future Directions

- Continue stewardship activities in the Missouri Coteau area, Upper Assiniboine watershed, Frenchman River Basin, Qu'Appelle River Basin and Swift Current watershed. Activities will include contacting landowners, assessing property, conducting workshops and town hall presentations, establishing demonstration sites, preparing educational awareness materials, developing positive media relations, and working with partner agencies.
- Integrate the Native Prairie and Streambank Stewardship programs into one comprehensive Prairie Stewardship Program.
- Continue implementing the Prairie Water Care program to provide rural and urban communities with training and technical assistance to monitor water quality and riparian health.
- Encourage sustainable ecotourism as a tool for long-term habitat conservation, and promote education about shorebirds and conservation at Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network sites.
- Strengthen links between planning, implementation and evaluation to enable programs to adapt and respond to change, and ensure successful long-term habitat conservation.
- Deliver programs focusing on watershed stewardship, land use planning, and protection of source water from contamination as part of the new Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.

Finance and Human Resources

SWCC maintains internal controls to safeguard the Corporation's assets and ensure accurate and timely financial reporting. Staff manage accounting and financial data, prepare and monitor corporate budgets and fiscal forecasts, maintain inventory and manage cash flow.

The Corporation produces quarterly and annual financial reports for review and approval by the Board of Directors. Also produced are customized reports for various provincial, national and international funding partners.

Human Resource management includes administering the employee performance review and employee compensation and benefits programs. The Corporation continues to implement its Employment Equity Program.

Staff development in 2001 - 2002 included

Memberships in professional organizations

- Canadian Public Relations Society
- Certified Management Accountants
- International Association of Business Communicators
- International Personnel Management Association
- Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan
- Ornithological Societies of North America
- Prairie Conservation Action Plan
- Saskatchewan Council for Community Development
- Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists
- Saskatchewan Tourism
- Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnerships
- Society for Conservation Biology
- Society for Range Management
- The Wildlife Society
- Wildlife Management Institute

Participation in national and international workshops and conferences included:

- Canadian Water Resources Association Annual Conference, Saskatoon
- Countryside Canada Stewardship Awards, Halifax
- Water Quality Matters Workshop, Moose Jaw
- Saskatchewan Conservation and Development Association Convention, Saskatoon
- Centre for Rural Studies and Enrichment National Conference "New Rural Economy from Challenge to Action", Muenster
- Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Des Moines, Iowa
- Third International Partners in Flight Conference, Monterey, California
- PHJV Winter Science Forum, Calgary, Alberta
- Grassland Bird Area Sensitivity Workshop, Bismark, North Dakota
- Society for Range Management Conference, Kansas City
- Saskatchewan Chamber of Conference

Financial Statements

Financial Statements

Management's Responsibility for Financial Statements

To whom it may concern

The accompanying financial statements of the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation (SWCC) have been prepared by corporate management in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

The Corporation's independent auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers, have examined financial statements of the Corporation. The scope of their examination, and their opinion in whether these financial statements present fairly the Corporation's financial position and operating results are given in the auditors' report.

Ensuring the integrity and objectivity of financial information is an integral part of management's responsibility to the ongoing operation. Management maintains an appropriate system of internal accounting controls, policies and procedures to provide assurance that all financial transactions are recorded on a timely basis with proper approvals, and result in reliable financial statements.

Financial information contained in the annual report has been derived from data provided by partner agencies and from SWCC's financial management information system. Financial information related directly to programming undertaken by SWCC or under management by SWCC, and contained in the financial statements.

To assist the Board in meeting its responsibility, it has appointed a Finance and Audit Committee of the Board to review and approve corporate financial statements. The Committee meets periodically with management to review internal accounting controls, audit results and accounting principles and practices. Staff thank the members of the Committee for their guidance and assistance during the year.

Robert J. Carles
General Manager

Auditors' Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly Province of Saskatchewan

We have audited the statement of financial position of Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation as at March 31, 2002 and the statements of revenue, expenses and net assets, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Corporation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the company as at March 31, 2002 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Pricewaterhousecoopers LLP

Chartered Accountants
June 3, 2002
Regina, Saskatchewan

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2002

	2002 $	2001 $
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Accounts receivable	1,327,581	1,154,635
Prepaid expenses	13,840	18,564
	1,341,421	1,173,199
Capital assets, at cost (note 4)	5,376,197	5,350,605
Less: Accumulated amortization	154,149	135,607
	5,222,048	5,214,998
	6,563,469	6,388,197
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities		
Bank indebtedness	649,732	379,065
Accounts payable	304,206	322,070
Deferred revenue (note 6)	89,960	165,570
	1,043,898	866,705
Net assets		
Invested in capital assets	5,222,048	5,214,998
Unrestricted funds	297,523	306,494
	5,519,571	5,521,492
	6,563,469	6,388,197

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Approved by the Board of Directors

Director

Director

Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Net Assets

For the year ended March 31, 2002

	Budget (unaudited - see note 9)	2002	2001
	$	$	$
Revenue			
Canadian			
Government of Saskatchewan			
- General Revenue Fund	598,381	589,405	566,329
- Fish and Wildlife Development Fund	84,117	163,308	103,759
Canadian Wildlife Service	250,000	258,000	384,000
Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration	246,319	286,935	268,862
Environment Canada	380,000	457,199	29,815
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	-	48,883	-
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association	35,900	35,590	344,000
Millennium Bureau of Canada	-	-	280,264
Wildlife Habitat Canada	35,548	36,444	48,000
Other Canadian	270,886	196,464	350,740
United States			
United States Fish and Wildlife Service	52,000	54,989	17,306
United States - Federal	155,918	159,275	-
United States - State	39,938	39,938	87,925
Unites States - Other	70,874	70,873	58,340
Deferred revenue related to capital funding (note 6)	-	(26,182)	-
	2,219,881	2,371,121	2,539,340
Other income (note 5)	25,000	67,767	35,460
	2,244,881	2,438,888	2,574,800
Expenses			
Program (Schedule 1)			
Agricultural services	105,600	88,792	65,508
Biological services	117,500	107,168	280,829
Communications and marketing	179,500	193,352	235,438
International programs	66,458	22,535	107,940
Prairie shores	252,278	241,543	130,474
Program co-ordination	314,900	432,712	304,937
Program development	95,000	104,258	71,626
Stewardship	750,536	864,958	805,754
	1,881,772	2,055,318	2,002,506
Payments to delivering partners (Grants)	363,109	365,724	512,536
Other			
Write down of assets	-	-	8,156
Amortization of capital assets	-	19,767	20,735
	2,244,881	2,440,809	2,543,933
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenses for the year	-	(1,921)	30,867
Net assets - Beginning of year	5,521,492	5,521,492	5,490,625
Net assets - End of year	5,521,492	5,519,571	5,521,492

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended March 31, 2002

	Unrestricted	Invested in Capital Assets	2002	2001
	$	$	$	$
Balance at beginning of year	306,494	5,214,998	5,521,492	5,490,625
Revenues	2,437,146	1,742	2,438,888	2,574,800
Operating expenses	(2,421,042)	-	(2,421,042)	(2,515,042)
Amortization and write down of capital assets	-	(19,767)	(19,767)	(28,891)
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	16,104	(18,025)	(1,921)	30,867
Acquisition of capital assets	(27,924)	27,924	-	-
Disposal of capital assets	2,849	(2,849)	-	-
	297,523	5,222,048	5,519,571	5,521,492

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended March 31, 2002

	2002 $	2001 $
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN)		
Operating activities		
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenses for the year	(1,921)	30,867
Items not affecting cash		
Amortization of capital assets	19,767	20,735
Amortization of deferred revenue	(1,742)	-
Write-down of capital assets	-	8,156
	16,104	59,758
Net change in non-cash working capital items (note 7)	(261,696)	(43,210)
	(245,592)	16,548
Investing activities		
Purchase of capital assets	(27,924)	(46,577)
Disposal of capital assets	2,849	-
	(25,075)	(46,577)
Financing activities		
Net increase bank indebtedness	270,667	30,029
Cash - Beginning of year	-	-
Cash - End of year	-	-

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2002

1 Incorporation and reporting of Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation

Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation was incorporated by Order-in-council December 21, 1989 under the Crown Corporations Act, 1978. The corporation's mandate under the incorporation Order in-council is to co-ordinate the delivery of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in Saskatchewan. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan was formally adopted on May 14, 1986 by the Federal Governments of Canada and the United States as a plan for conservation of internationally shared waterfowl resources.

Under the authority of Order-in-council No. 29/90 dated January 10, 1990, Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation holds responsibility to co-ordinate or account for the collection and disbursements of monies related to programs or activities undertaken in Saskatchewan pursuant to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. These financial statements report only those monies designated to be collected and distributed through the accounts of the corporation.

2 Summary of significant accounting policies

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. The following are considered to be significant:

Capital assets

Capital assets purchased by the Corporation are recorded at cost. Capital assets are amortized on a declining balance basis as follows:

Equipment and furniture	20%
ATV and trailers	30%
Computer equipment	30%

Donated property is recorded at fair value when the fair value can be reasonably determined. When an estimate of fair value cannot reasonably be made, the capital asset is recorded at nominal value.

Amounts received from funding partners to finance the purchase of capital assets is deferred and amortized on the same basis the related capital asset is depreciated.

Revenue recognition

The Corporation follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

3 Related party transactions

Included in these financial statements are transactions with various Saskatchewan Crown corporations, departments, agencies, boards and commissions related to the Corporation by virtue of common control by the Government of Saskatchewan and non-Crown corporations and enterprises subject to joint control and significant influence by the Government of Saskatchewan (collectively referred to as "related parties").

Routine operating transactions with related parties are settled at prevailing market prices under normal trade terms. These transactions and amounts outstanding at year end, are as follows:

	2002	2001
	$	$
Revenue	740,213	694,013
Expenses	306,202	233,865
Accounts receivable	1,094	66,000
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	23,373	20,894
Deferred revenue	-	60,000

Other amounts and transactions due to and from related parties and the terms of settlement are described separately in these financial statements and the notes thereto.

Notes to Financial Statements

4 Capital assets

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2002 Net	2001 Net
	$	$	$	$
Land	13,750	-	13,750	6,000
Donated land and transfers	5,141,589	-	5,141,589	5,141,589
Equipment and furniture	68,337	43,834	24,503	18,143
ATV and trailers	73,348	65,441	7,907	11,295
Computer equipment	78,283	44,874	33,409	37,081
Artwork	890	-	890	890
	5,376,197	154,149	5,222,048	5,214,998

5 Other income

Other income is comprised as follows:

	2002	2001
	$	$
Donations	500	2,000
Interest earned	914	4,716
Miscellaneous revenues including exchange gain	31,206	5,544
Crown land fees and permits	35,147	23,200
	67,767	35,460

6 Deferred revenue

At year-end, the Corporation has received funding for various projects but has not yet completed the projects. The Corporation has also received funding for the purchase of capital assets which will be amortized on the same basis as the related capital asset is depreciated. Revenue deferred to cover expenses associated with those projects and capital assets is as follows:

	2002	2001
	$	$
Deferred project funding		
TransCanada Pipeline	43,923	61,077
Saskatchewan Environment Resource Management	-	60,000
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association	-	10,900
Other	19,855	33,593
	63,778	165,570
Deferred capital funding	27,924	-
Amortization of deferred capital funding	(1,742)	-
	26,182	-
	89,960	165,570

Notes to Financial Statements

7 Net change in non-cash working capital items

	2002	2001
	$	$
Accounts receivable	(172,946)	(73,240)
Prepaid expenses	4,724	(7,033)
Accounts payable	(17,864)	35,022
Deferred revenue	(75,610)	2,041
	(261,696)	(43,210)

8 Financial instruments

The Corporation's recognized financial instruments consist of bank indebtedness, accounts receivable and accounts payable. Due to the short term nature of these instruments, their fair value approximates their carrying value.

9 Budget figures

The budget figures are presented for comparison purposes, are unaudited, and are those as approved by the Board, reclassified to conform with the presentation of these financial statements.

Schedule 1 - Program Expenses

	Departments								Year ended March 31	
	Agricultural services	Biological services	Communication & marketing	International programs	Prairie shores	Program co-ordination	Program development	Stewardship	2002	2001
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Contractual services	729	615	30,187	-	16,450	49,787	-	124,139	221,907	224,217
Field supplies	13,809	1,273	151	36	37,649	467	201	167,265	220,851	158,941
General expenses	26,004	3,001	29,712	46	13,111	73,477	66	48,036	193,453	209,405
Office expenses	1,839	19,369	21,314	983	1,991	34,602	516	20,223	100,837	121,612
Salaries and benefits	38,267	65,220	105,588	20,420	161,464	246,112	25,950	466,028	1,129,049	1,165,418
Travel and other staff costs	8,144	17,690	6,400	1,050	10,878	28,267	77,525	39,267	189,221	122,913
	88,792	107,168	193,352	22,535	241,543	432,712	104,258	864,958	2,055,318	2,002,506